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# INVESTING IN AMERICA

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## President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is Delivering in Alaska

As of July 2023

The Biden-Harris Administration has hit the ground running to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and it is already delivering results for the people of Alaska. To date, \$5.2 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding has been announced and is headed to Alaska with over 934 specific projects identified for funding. Since the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed, approximately \$2.5 billion has been announced for transportation – to invest in roads, bridges, public transit, ports and airports – and roughly \$386 million has been announced for clean water. As of today, more than 20,000 households across the state are receiving affordable high-speed internet due to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. To date, Alaska has received \$1 billion through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) to help provide access to high-speed internet across the state. Many more projects will be added in the coming months, as funding opportunities become grant awards and as formula funds become specific projects. By reaching communities all across Alaska – including rural communities and historically underserved populations – the law makes critical investments that will improve lives for Alaskans and position the state for success.

**Roads and Bridges:** In Alaska, there are 126 bridges and over 660 miles of highway in poor condition. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will rebuild our roads and includes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. Based on formula funding alone, Alaska is expected to receive approximately \$3.7 billion over five years in federal funding for highways and bridges.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$1.6 billion has been announced in Alaska for roads, bridges, roadway safety, and major projects. This includes:
  - \$1.4 billion in highway formula funding and \$90 million in dedicated formula funding for bridges in 2022 and 2023.

*Announced Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding is as of July 7, 2023*

- \$71.2 million through the RAISE program and \$10 million through the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program in 2022 and 2023.

**Internet:** High-speed internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, participate in school, access health care, and stay connected. Yet nearly 28% of Alaskans do not have an internet subscription. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$65 billion to provide affordable, high-speed internet to every American. Additionally, experts estimate that as many as 89,000 households in Alaska are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which cuts internet bills by up to \$30 per month, or \$75 for households on Tribal lands, and provides a one-time \$100 discount off a connected device. The Biden-Harris Administration is providing further cost savings by working with internet providers to offer high-speed internet plans that are fully covered by the Affordable Connectivity Program — meaning most eligible households can now get high-speed internet without paying a dime.

- **Progress to date:** To date, Alaska has received \$1 billion through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) to help provide access to high-speed internet across the state. In addition, about 20,000 households in Alaska are enrolled in the Affordable Connectivity Program, with more signing up every day. Households can check their eligibility, sign up, and find fully covered internet plans at [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov).

**Water:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law represents the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, including the first-ever dedicated federal funding to replace lead service lines and address dangerous PFAS chemicals.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, \$387 million has been announced to Alaska to provide clean and safe water across the state and improve water infrastructure. This includes:
  - \$156 million available in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to provide clean and safe water across the state through the Environmental Protection Agency. Of this funding, \$57 million is dedicated to lead pipe and service line replacement, with another \$39 million for safe drinking water investments that can also support lead pipe replacement in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

**Public Transit:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes the largest investment in public transit in U.S. history. Based on formula funding alone, Alaska would expect to receive approximately \$404 million over five years under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve public transit across the state.<sup>1</sup> This funding will expand healthy, sustainable transportation options in Alaska, where non-white households are 0.8 times

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<sup>1</sup> Transit formula funding amounts are subject to changes resulting from the 2020 census or from annual transit service data reported to FTA's National Transit Database.

more likely to commute via public transportation and 28% transit vehicles in the state are currently past useful life.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Alaska has been allocated \$77.4 million to improve public transportation options across the state in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.

**Clean Buses:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests over \$10 billion for clean public transit and school buses. This includes a \$5 billion investment over the next five years to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. Use of clean school buses promotes cleaner air, reduced health risks, especially for children, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. This year alone, funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will help double the number of clean public transit buses on America's roads.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, schools in Alaska have been awarded \$395,000 through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program. In addition, communities in Alaska were awarded \$6.8 million for clean transit buses and improved bus service through DOT's Low- and No- Emission Bus and Bus and Bus Facilities Program.

**Electric Vehicle Charging:** The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$7.5 billion to build the first-ever national network of electric vehicle chargers in the United States and is a critical element of President Biden's plan to address the climate crisis and support domestic manufacturing jobs. Through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program alone, Alaska should expect to receive roughly \$52 million in formula funding over five years to support the expansion of electric vehicle charging in the state.

- **Announced funding to date:** Alaska has been allocated \$18.9 million in 2022 and 2023 to build out a network of EV chargers across the state.

**Clean Energy & Power:** Power outages cost the U.S. economy more than \$70 billion annually. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a historic investment to upgrade our power infrastructure by making the grid more resilient and building thousands of miles of new transmission lines to deliver clean, affordable electricity. The law also makes a historic investment in clean energy technologies like advanced nuclear, clean hydrogen, carbon capture, and batteries, as well as a historic \$3.5 billion investment in weatherization to improve energy efficiency of homes and lower energy costs for impacted households by an average of \$372 per year.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$83.2 million has been allocated to Alaska for clean energy, energy efficiency, and power in 2022 and 2023. This includes:

- \$18.4 million for weatherization;
- \$3.7 million through the State Energy Program;
- \$3.4 million through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program;
- \$39.8 million to prevent outages and make the power grid more resilient. Additional grid funding will be made available in the coming months.

**Airports:** According to some rankings, no U.S. airports rank in the top 25 of airports worldwide. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$25 billion in airports to replace and modernize airport infrastructure, which helps the U.S. become more economically competitive globally, creates good jobs, and revitalizes and supports more efficient and enhanced traveler experience.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Alaska has received approximately \$211.5 million in 2022 and 2023 for airports.

**Ports and Waterways:** Like airports, our ports and waterways are in need of repair and investment. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests \$17 billion in port infrastructure to strengthen our supply chains, address maintenance backlogs, and reduce congestion and emissions near ports—ultimately helping our country move goods more quickly and at lower cost.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, Alaska has received roughly \$402.3 million in 2022 and 2023 for ports and waterways. Alaska was awarded \$112.5 million for 4 port projects through the Port Infrastructure Development Program.

**Resilience:** Millions of Americans feel the effects of climate change and extreme weather every day. More frequent hurricanes, wildfires, heat waves, floods, unprecedented power outages, and persistent droughts devastate our communities and threaten our infrastructure. In the last decade, Alaska has experienced 3 extreme weather events, costing the state up to \$750 million in damages. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law makes a historic investment to bolster our resilience against pressing challenges like impacts of climate change, extreme weather events, and other hazards like cyberattacks.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$481.3 million has been allocated to Alaska for infrastructure resilience in 2022 and 2023 including \$281.1 million through the Army Corps of Engineers for flood mitigation.

**Legacy Pollution Cleanup:** Across the country, thousands of former industrial, chemical, and energy sites emit harmful pollutants into surrounding communities. These sites pose harms to health, welfare, and economic prosperity — and disproportionately impact communities of color: 26% of Black Americans and 29% of Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a Superfund site, a higher percentage than for Americans overall. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will deliver the largest investment in tackling legacy pollution in American history by cleaning up Superfund and brownfield sites, reclaiming abandoned mines, and capping orphaned oil and gas wells.

- **Announced funding to date:** To date, approximately \$33.7 million has been allocated to Alaska in 2022 and 2023 for capping orphaned oil and gas wells and reclaiming abandoned mine lands and \$12 million has been allocated to cleaning up brownfield sites.

For more information, click [here](#) to see a map of funding and announced projects in your community through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

## **Alaska Project Spotlights**

### ***RAISE Project Spotlight***

#### **Juneau Douglas North Crossing Project**

The Department of Transportation awarded \$16.4 million to the City and Borough of Juneau to complete a final design and document development for the Juneau Douglas North Crossing, a new bridge between Douglas Island and the Alaska mainland. The new bridge will improve quality of life for all inhabitants of the island by providing a more direct route to destinations such as medical facilities, jobs, places of worship, and the airport, while creating a more efficient bus loop for service to the island.

See [here](#) for a full list of RAISE projects.

### ***ReConnect Project Spotlight***

#### **Mukluk Telephone Company, Incorporated**

The Department of Agriculture awarded \$35 million to Mukluk Telephone Company, Incorporated to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to provide high-speed internet. This network will benefit 875 people, 30 businesses, and six educational facilities in Nome Census Area in Alaska. This unique investment ensures that rural communities have access to the internet connectivity needed to allow rural America to remain a place of opportunity to both live and work

See [here](#) for a full list of ReConnect projects.

## ***Brownfields Cleanup Project Spotlight***

### **Former Kake Elementary School**

The Environmental Protection Agency awarded the City of Kake \$2 million to clean up the Former Kake Elementary School located at the intersection of Church Street and Fourth Avenue, which operated from 1951 to 1996. The property is contaminated with metals, inorganic contaminants, and PCBs. The funding will help accelerate clean-up efforts of contaminated sites to build safer, more resilient communities for the next generation.

See [here](#) for a list Multipurpose, Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund, and Cleanup (MARC) Grant projects.

## ***Transportation and Transit Spotlight***

### **Alaska Marine Highway Ferry Service**

The Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced \$286 million for the Alaska Marine Highway. This funding will bring ferry service to remote areas, build new docks and terminals as well as reduce emissions in the transportation sector.

See [here](#) for more information on awarded projects.

## ***Community Wildfire Prevention Spotlight***

### **Village of Aniak**

The Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has awarded over \$217,000 to the Village of Aniak to complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The community is historically underserved, vulnerable, and will likely experience difficulty preparing for and responding to wildfire. Aniak has, on average, greater wildfire likelihood than 82% of tribal areas and counties in Alaska.

See [here](#) for more information on the Community Wildfire Defense Grants.

## ***SMART Project Spotlight***

### **Alaska Rural Remote Operations Workplan**

The Department of Transportation has awarded over \$1.9 million to the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities to utilize drone technology in remote

applications. Drones will assist in conducting infrastructure inspections and gather situational awareness data essential to Rural Alaska's way of life on snow, ice, and overland trails. The effort will be completed in partnership with Alaska Native and Rural Villages.

See [here](#) for more information on the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program.

### ***Highway Project Spotlight***

#### **Reconnecting Fairview: Neighborhood Realization through Community-Led Highway Redesign**

The Department of Transportation has awarded the Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services with a \$537,000 planning grant from their Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program to reconnect communities through the removal and retrofitting of transportation facilities that create barriers and impact mobility and access.

See [here](#) for a full list of Reconnect Communities Awards.

### ***Ports Project Spotlight***

#### **Port of Nome Modifications**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded \$250 million to the Port of Nome for modifications that will allow larger vessels to access the harbor and strengthen supply chains.

See [here](#) for the list of U.S. Army Corps projects that has been announced.